AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

defining a library of available criteria to be used in filtering a population of items to identify items of interest, each criterion having a graphical representation;

receiving a selection of at least one of the ~~criterion~~criteria to be applied to the population as a filter;

accepting an indication of a tier of the filter to which ~~the~~a selected criterion is to be associated;

identifying a list of items of interest satisfying a current set of criteria defining the filter; and

displaying a graphical representation of the filter while the filter is constructed.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
including the selected criterion into the indicated tier such that a graphical representation of the selected criterion is merged with a graphical representation of the indicated tier in the graphical representation of the filter.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
applying a Boolean OR to those criteria on a same tier of the filter; and
applying a Boolean AND to those criteria residing on different tiers of the filter.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
displaying a representation of the list of items of interest.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein identifying comprises:
computing a tally of the list of items of interest.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising:

displaying the tally of the list of items of interest.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving an indication of one of the tiers of the filter;

identifying, in response to receiving, a group of items satisfying the filter at the indicated tier;

displaying the group of items.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the population comprises a group of securities.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the library of available criteria comprises criteria derived from a community of investors.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the library of available criteria comprises user customizable filter criteria.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the library of available criteria comprises predefined criteria.

12.   (Currently Amended) A machine readable medium having instructions stored thereon which when executed by a processor cause the processor to perform operations comprising:

defining a library of criteria to be used in filtering a population of items to identify items of interest, each criterion having a graphical representation;

receiving a selection of at least one of the ~~criterion~~ criteria to be applied to the population as a filter;

accepting an indication of a tier of the filter to which ~~the~~a selected criterion is to be associated;

identifying a list of items of interest satisfying a current set of criteria defining the filter; and

displaying a graphical representation of the filter while the filter is constructed.

13.   (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 12 in which the instructions cause the processor to perform operations further comprising:

including the selected criterion into the indicated tier such that a graphical representation of the selected criterion is merged with a graphical representation of the indicated tier in the graphical representation of the filter.

14.   (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 12 in which the instructions cause the processor to perform operations further comprising:

applying a Boolean OR to those criteria on a same tier of the filter; and

applying a Boolean AND to those criteria residing on different tiers of the filter.

15.   (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 12 in which the instructions cause the processor to perform operations further comprising:

displaying a representation of the list of items of interest.

16.   (Original) The machine readable medium machine readable medium of claim 12 wherein the population comprises a group of securities.

17.   (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 12 in which the instructions cause the processor to perform operations further comprising:

receiving an indication of one of the tiers of the filter;

identifying, in response to receiving, a group of items satisfying the filter at the indicated tier;

displaying the group of items.